We claim:

1. A peptide of the formula: $R^1 - X^1 - X^2 - R^2$
wherein $X^1$ is an aromatic amino acid residue;
$X^2$ is any amino acid residue;
$R^1$ is $NH_2$ - or an amino acid sequence $X^3$ - $X^4$ - $X^5$
wherein $X^3$ is an aliphatic amino acid residue having a side chain hydroxyl group and $X^4$ and $X^5$ are the same or different and are any amino acid residue and wherein $R^2$ is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues.

2. The peptide of claim 1
wherein $X^1$ is Phe;
$X^2$ is Glu or Ala;
$R^2$ is Gly-Gly;
$R^1$ is $X^3$- $X^4$- $X^5$ wherein
$X^3$ is Thr,
$X^4$ is Asp or Ala and
$X^5$ is Ile or Ala.

3. The peptide of claim 1
wherein $R^1$ is $NH_2$-;
$X^1$ is an aromatic amino acid;
$X^2$ is Glu or Ala and
$R^2$ is Gly, Gly-Gly, Gly-Gly-Gly or sarcosine.

4. The peptide of claim 3
wherein $X^1$ is Phe and $X^2$ is Glu.

5. The peptide of claim 2 having an amino acid sequence selected from the group
consisting of:
(a) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:8);
(b) Thr-Ala-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:3);
(c) Thr-Asp-Ala-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:4); and

(d) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:6).

6. The peptide of claim 3 having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:9);

(b) Phe-Glu-Gly; and

(c) Phe-Glu-Sarcosine.

7. The peptide of claim 1 wherein $R^2$ is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of glycine, sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.

8. The peptide of claim 3 wherein $R^2$ is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of glycine, sarcosine, azetidine, nipecotic acid and pipecotic acid.

9. The peptide of any of claims 1 to 8 wherein at least one amino acid is a D amino acid.

10. The peptide of claim 4 or 6 wherein Phe and Glu are D amino acids.

11. A peptide having the amino acid sequence Ser-Gly-Glu-Gly-Val-Arg (Sequence ID NO:1).

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide of any of claims 1 to 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. A method for treating or preventing SIRS-induced hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 11 or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

14. A method for treating or preventing anaphylactic

hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1 to 10, or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

15. A method of reducing or preventing an anaphylactic reaction in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1 to 10 or of an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide to the mammal.

16. A method of reducing or preventing an endotoxic reaction in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a peptide of any of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 11 or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide to the mammal.

17. A method for treating an inflammatory disorder in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide of any claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 or 10 or of an effective fragment or derivative of the peptide to the mammal.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of a rheumatic disorder, inflammatory bowel disease, post-ischemic inflammation or systemic inflammatory response syndrome.

19. An antibody which specifically recognises an epitope of a peptide of any of claims 1 to 11.

20. A method of determining the peptide SGP-T or the peptide SGPS in a biological fluid comprising obtaining a sample of the biological fluid and determining the peptide in the fluid by immunoassay employing an antibody of claim 19.